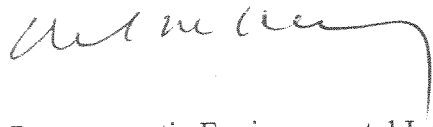




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Office of Response and Restoration
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

FEB 18 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

FROM: David M. Kennedy 
Director

SUBJECT: Official NOAA Final Programmatic Environmental Impact
Statement for Seagrass Restoration in the Florida Keys
National Marine Sanctuary by Tony Penn

After personally reviewing the information in the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Seagrass Restoration in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS), I agree that it is an official NOAA policy document.

The publication is a Natural Resource Plan, prepared by the Office of Response and Restoration and National Marine Sanctuaries Program, and required by the federal government for NOAA to complete because of its activities in the FKNMS. The findings of the article are as follows:

“This Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) systematically evaluates the short and long-term environmental and socioeconomic effects related to the implementation of seagrass restoration and seagrass injury prevention projects in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS). The Trustees for the FKNMS are NOAA and the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida. This document is intended to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and its implementing regulations, and NOAA guidelines for compliance with NEPA.

As this document focuses on future regional seagrass restoration and injury prevention activities within all of the FKNMS, the discussion of potential positive and negative impacts on the biological, social, and economic environments will not be site or case specific; instead, they will be general in scope. Therefore, the goal of this PEIS is to describe a range of seagrass restoration techniques, used for both primary and compensatory restoration projects and seagrass injury prevention actions that potentially may be implemented in the FKNMS.

The types of seagrass restoration and injury prevention projects proposed in this plan will be implemented with funds collected through natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) settlements for injuries to seagrasses within the FKNMS. The anticipated beneficial and adverse environmental and socioeconomic impacts of each restoration technique are discussed in detail.”



This impact statement was reviewed both internally and externally, and was written with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. An IQA form for a Natural Resource Plan has also been completed.

This memo is in place of NOAA Form 25-30, which has not yet been approved.